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Cellists vs. airlines metroNEWS

Post PM selfie
Harper pulls a Trudeau

Manitoba celebrates civil rights milestone
metroNEWS

Former prime minister Kim Campbell poses with a fan at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights on Wednesday after giving a speech about the importance of women in politics. COURTESY CMHR

'It's a great sense of joy'

NELLIE MCCLUNG

Suffragette's granddaughter reflects on her family's legacy

Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Winnipeg

Marcia McClung remembers her grandmother as a writer, holed up in their family's British Columbia home, scribbling out her novels longhand on white foolscaps of paper.

"I loved to go there because she always had so much going on," a now adult McClung recalls.

On Friday, she joined many other Canadians and Manitobans in reflecting on the legacy of her grandmother, none other than Nellie McClung, a suffragette who led the way for Manitoba women to be the first in the country to win the right to vote in 1916.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime event. For me, I'm full of pride," McClung said of the centennial anniversary.

"It's a great sense of joy."

McClung spent the day speaking to various crowds about her grandmother's life, and the strides she took towards political equality.

"It's very significant that Manitoba is really celebrating what was a landmark decision 100 years ago. We're never going to see it again."

> **She always had so much going on.**
> Marcia McClung

More coverage on page 4

#PRIDETAPE Should your hockey team rainbow-wrap their sticks? metroVIEWS

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metro NEWS
Your essential daily news

Barbie's got three new bodies — curvy, tall and petite. **Business**

Councillor gets clear on city snow removal

PILOT PROJECT

Uber-style app may give small contractors a shot: Wyatt

Braeden Jones
Metro | Winnipeg

A motion forwarded through Winnipeg city council to the committee level this week proposes opening Winnipeg's snow clearing operations up to small contractors through an Uber-style app.

"The app could be set up where you have individuals sign up who would qualify, have a certain type of equipment, a certain insurance… and start plowing city streets," said Coun. Russ Wyatt.

"If you have an individual with a truck-plow or small Bobcat they could do the same job (as current loaders), and probably quicker and more efficiently."

Like Uber drivers, the freelancing plow operators would register, be subject to inspections, and make money clearing Winnipeg's "streets, sidewalks" and "back lanes where existing larger private contractors offer services."

Wyatt said the contractors that normally hold these contracts are convenient, because "bureaucrats like the simplicity," but in his mind turning it back to community members is a throwback that could lead to better service.

A city committee will debate the merit of creating a snow clearing app. METRO FILE

> It's the idea of services in the community for the community.
> Coun. Russ Wyatt

"At one time, when the smaller communities existed in Winnipeg, people knew who their local snow clearing guy was," he said. "It's the idea of services in the community for the community, and then the money is staying in the community rather than concentrating and going into the pockets of big contractors."

Wyatt's motion is going before the committee on infrastructure renewal and public works.

It advises that there be a pilot project in the 2016-17 winter season to test the concept, and "in the event the pilot project is successful, that the city begin to expand the app services into other areas…"

"I hope the (committee) embraces this idea," Wyatt said.

MANITOBA ELECTION 2016

Leaders planning to splurge — but where?

Both the leader of Manitoba's Progressive Conservative Party and the Premier have been critical of one another's infrastructure spending claims and promises leading up to the 41st provincial election, but for now, neither has differentiated much.

When announcing his party's plan, Brian Pallister called Greg Selinger's NDP government's spending "short-sighted and politically driven," and Selinger called the PC pledge of $1 billion in annual infrastructure spending "big talk, no action."

Though the details of Pallister's plan are yet to come out, spending, as he put it, "at least $1 billion," doesn't outspend the sitting government.

The NDP's core infrastructure plan, launched in 2013, committed to $5.5 billion over five years.

In the first year, a short construction season prevented the government from reaching the $1 billion mark, but that was followed up by spending $1.037 billion in 2014-15 — a pace that has been maintained to equal roughly the same total in 2015-16.

The government also recommitted to the core infrastructure program from 2013 by three years, extending it beyond 2020 and raising the total to $10 billion.

That means nearly $1.5 billion is to be spent in each of the last three years.

In talking about where infrastructure money will go, Pallister said a PC government would ensure "economic return," and criticized the NDP government for "building projects where votes are needed rather than where a road is required."

But a look at recent spending shows the NDP invested nearly $700 million in provincial highways in 2014-15, with the bulk of it going to trade corridors.

BRAEDEN JONES/METRO

$5.5 billion

The NDP's core infrastructure plan committed to $5.5 billion over five years.

PLANNING ECONOMIC RETURN

Selinger said strategic investment around places like Centreport, and "getting goods to market" is about the same economic return his counterpart promises, and especially important given the low dollar.

Pallister said the PC part will share more details on its infrastructure plan closer to this spring's election.

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Trailblazers honoured

SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT

Women who secured rights 100 years ago commemorated

Shel Zolkewich
For Metro | Winnipeg

One hundred years ago, Manitoba women fought to became the first in Canada to win the right to vote. It was an effort spearheaded by a trailblazer named Nellie McClung. It's a concept that Bailey Graydon, a Grade 10 student at Seven Oaks Met School, finds hard to wrap her head around.

"My mom has always talks to me about how important it is to share my opinion, and also to hear the opinions of others, to bounce ideas around and to be proud of what I stand for. It's really hard to believe that at one point, women couldn't do that," said Graydon, who attended a special day of programming to mark the anniversary of women securing the right to vote.

Students pose in front of a green screen at the Manitoba Museum Thursday, where their likeness would be digitally added to a backdrop from 100 years ago. CMHR/HANDOUT

Students spent time at The Manitoba Museum's Nice Women Don't Want the Vote exhibit then moved to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights where they were treated to a keynote address by The Honourable Janice C. Filmon, Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba. Former Prime Minister Kim Campbell, Manitoba MLA Myrna Driedger, writer Jodie Layne, Clare MacKay of The Forks and Gail Asper were among the other women leaders who shared their stories.

Shahina Siddiqui is a speaker, spiritual counsellor, educator and social activist as well as the executive director of Islamic Social Services Association Inc. Canada. She talked with students about the racism she's encountered throughout her life.

"It makes me feel very sad that some people have to go through this," said Graydon upon hearing Siddiqui's story. "To hear how her neighbours treated her and the names they used was just awful."

Graydon said she went into the day hoping to find out more about the issues that affect women and minorities.

"What I learned from today is that no matter where you come from or what you are wearing, you should be proud of who you are," she said.

"You should always share your opinion because it's really an important thing to do for so many reasons."

AWARDS

The day wrapped up with a gala evening hosted by the Nellie McClung Foundation and the presentation of the inaugural Nellie Awards. The Nellies recognize Manitoba women who have followed in McClung's footsteps through their work in social justice, women's rights and human rights.

CURRENCY

McClung should be on bills: PC leader

Manitoba's Progressive Conservative leader wants suffragette Nellie McClung to be given a prominent spot on a Canadian banknote. The Queen is the only woman currently featured on a bill.

Brian Pallister says in a letter to the Bank of Canada governor that McClung should be recognized for her role in the enfranchisement of women.

McClung fought tirelessly for women's suffrage and was also one of the Famous Five — a group who won a landmark court ruling which recognized women as persons.

The five women were featured on the $50 bill at one time, but were replaced by an icebreaker in 2011.

Women deserve a spot on Canadian currency, Pallister wrote.

"This would be a visible and important expression of the role women have played in Canada's life and history," he said.

Thursday was the 100th anniversary of Manitoba granting women the right to vote.

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Emergency room layout under review

BRIAN SINCLAIR

Family of man who died in ER says it's still not enough

Manitoba is looking at renovating the layout of 10 emergency rooms after the death of an indigenous man during a 34-hour wait.

Some are saying this is not enough, however.

The family of Brian Sinclair, who died in a Winnipeg emergency room in 2008, says that changing the configuration of the province's emergency rooms won't address the reason why the 45-year-old died without treatment.

Sinclair's death was the subject of an inquest, which made 63 recommendations aimed primarily at policy reviews at the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority.

One of these recommendations involves looking at the layout of emergency rooms to make sure that people waiting are visible to the triage desk.

Another suggests a "pre-triage" area for patients.

The province is advertising for a consultant to examine the feasibility of those in 10 hospitals across Manitoba.

"We hope to identify any specific, technical or physical issues that are related to those recommendations," said Norman Blackie, executive director of the capital planning branch of Manitoba Health.

Sinclair, a double amputee, was waiting for care at Winnipeg's Health Sciences Centre and died of a treatable bladder infection caused by a blocked catheter.

Although Sinclair spoke to a triage aide when he first arrived in the ER, he was never formally entered into the hospital's system.

He languished for hours, growing sicker and vomiting several times, but was never asked if he was waiting for care.

Rigor mortis had set in by the time Sinclair was discovered dead.

Vilko Zbogar, lawyer for the Sinclair family, says the inquest found that people didn't have trouble seeing Sinclair but made stereotypical assumptions about why he was there.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ELECTION

Liberals vow to snip the PST on haircuts

Braeden Jones
Metro | Winnipeg

Manitoba residents could be saving on salon services if the Liberal party is elected to form government this spring.

Leader Rana Bokhari announced Thursday that her party would remove the PST from haircuts, hair colours, manicures and other salon service costing more than $50, a tax she says "directly affects women disproportionately."

The tax was introduced in 2012 on services greater than $50.

Since then, the tax generates $7 million annually in PST revenue.

"Right now, females, women in this province, are paying $7 million out of their pockets for salon services," Bokhari said.

Making up for that lost tax revenue will come in a "fully costed out plan" the Liberals will release after the election writ drops.

Bokhari said the party is eyeing other tax cuts, but this one is something she had "heard a lot of complaints about."

"I'm a woman," she said. "For those that are paying for it, it means a lot."

> **Women in this province are paying $7 million out of their pockets for salon services.**
> Rana Bokhari, Liberal leader

Manitoba Liberal Party Leader Rana Bokhari. METRO FILE

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The true power of Pride

CELEBRATION

'Be authentic' the theme for 2016 as festival gears up again

Shel Zolkevich
For Metro | Winnipeg

Parade-goers celebrate in vibrant style during last year's raucous Pride Winnipeg Festival parade. METRO FILE

Be real, be true, be outspoken, be a person who affects change. It's just a small part of the message highlighted in the theme — be authentic — for the 2016 Pride Winnipeg Festival.

"Be someone who lives each day unapologetically," said Jonathan Niemczak, president of Pride Winnipeg.

Since 1987, Pride Winnipeg has hosted an annual festival to provide an opportunity for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons and their allies to celebrate their culture, heritage and diversity.

"We started off with a few hundred folks marching down Broadway Avenue," said Niemczak of the parade, a highlight of the festival. "Now we literally have tens of thousands of people celebrating."

In 2014, 52 floats were part of the parade. In 2015, that number jumped to over 80. "It really shows how much acceptance there is in this community, and for that, we are truly thankful," Niemczak added.

This year's festival runs May 27 to June 5.

> **"It really shows how much acceptance there is in this community."**
> Jonathan Niemczak

Pride Winnipeg Festival kicks off with a rainbow flag-raising at City Hall followed by various community events starting May 27. A two-day free outdoor concert series happens June 4 and 5 at The Forks with performing artists, vendors, a beer tent and children's entertainment. Hours of the event have been extended for this year.

"Year over year we're seeing larger crowds at The Forks and to accommodate the demand we are increasing our operating hours," explained Niemczak.

"This increase will see all Pride Day weekend services extended right until 8:00 p.m."

OUTDOOR DINING

RAW to cook up a storm

Good news for those who missed out on the chance to buy tickets for Winnipeg's annual outdoor pop-up restaurant, typically set up on the Red River, but which due to uncooperative temperatures earlier this season, stayed on land.

The restaurant, along with Parks Canada and tourism company Frontiers North Adventures, partnered to create RAW: churchill, which runs in — you guessed it, Churchill, Manitoba — from March 10 to 12.

"We're so excited to bring the award-winning RAW:almond experience from a frozen Winnipeg river to the frozen shores of the Hudson Bay," restaurant co-founder Joe Kalturnyk said in a news release issued Thursday.

Guests will arrive to the site by travelling in a tundra buggy to travel across the ice-packed Churchill River to the Prince of Wales Fort National Historic grounds. They will then dine inside the walls, and have a post-dinner rendezvous to watch the northern lights as a finale.

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Sports film fest kicks off

CINEMA

Event is for more than just fanatics, say organizers

Shel Zolkevich
For Metro | Winnipeg

Stories about the Winnipeg Aboriginal Mixed Curling League, a professional female Lucha Libre wrestler and a team of six-year old skateboard fanatics come to life on a screen made of snow at The Forks during the Canadian Sport Film Festival (CSFF) this weekend.

The two-day event kicks off Friday with a free event at the Great West Life Snow Lounge at The Forks. Six short films are on the agenda, which begins at 6 p.m.

"This festival isn't solely for the sports fanatic," said Russell Field, executive director of the CSFF. "You simply have to be a fan of compelling human stories."

Being Bruno Banani tells the story of the first and only luger from the South Pacific island of Tonga and his appearance at the winter Olympics. It's part of the Canadian Sport Film Festival this weekend. CONTRIBUTED

This is the fifth year for the Winnipeg component of the festival. A Toronto festival has been running for eight years.

"We occasionally do satellite events at other cities," Field said. "Winnipeg is a nice model for us. We do things that are unique to being here, like having it in winter and offering an outdoor component."

The festival moves to the Centre Culturel Franco-Manitobain for Saturday.

That day includes an afternoon screening of a short called The Magic Shoes, about a nine-year-old Iranian boy and his new sneakers.

It's followed by the Manitoba premiere of Running Girl, a documentary about a teenage Hawaiian girl's pursuit of world championships in two sports.

> **We really look for films that you can't see anywhere else and that really tell that compelling story.**
> Russell Field

A film in the evening reveals what drifts through the minds of runners as they pound the pavement.

The feature film is Being Bruno Banani, about the first and only luger from Tonga who made his way to the winter Olympics.

"If we were solely driven by commercial appeal, we would never feature a film like Being Bruno Banani," Field said. "But we really look for films that you can't see anywhere else and that really tell that compelling story."

Ticket information is available at: http://sportfilmfestival.ca.

VACANCY

City reviewing climate change co-ordinator job

It seems the city may be on the lookout for a new climate change co-ordinator.

The term position was previously held by Sean Madden, but wrapped up last fall, and has since remained vacant.

As was the case when reported by media last September, a city spokesperson recently confirmed that nearly five months later, the job still remains under review.

Alissa Clark wrote in an email to Metro that the city has filled the environmental co-ordinator position, and that council can expect to receive an update report on the 2015 corporate climate change action plan in the coming months.

"Climate change is an issue that is extremely important," Coun. Jenny Gerbasi said.

The city said on Thursday the position is not up for elimination, but the job description is what's being looked at.

STEPHANIE TAYLOR/METRO

Wyatt irked by proposal

TRANSIT CORRIDOR

City's plans for cost-sharing with CN Rail come under fire

Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Winnipeg

City staff's hard-nosed recent negotiations with CN Rail officials have raised the ire of some councillors.

Coun. Russ Wyatt said he was concerned about the terms of proposed cost-sharing agreements between the city and CN Rail in regards to the Plessis Underpass project and second-phase rapid transit expansion.

An administrative report tabled during a recent council meeting states CN Rail was willing to pay the city $5.6 million towards the rebuilding of the Jubilee Underpass, part of the transit corridor, and $7.5 million for the Plessis project.

But in the event rail lines were moved, the city would be obliged to pay $280,000 and $375,000 annually until 2035 for the underpass reconstruction and Plessis, respectively.

Wyatt warned he was told by city staff this deal was made in the "eleventh hour," which set a "precedent" to be expected by other railways when future projects, such as the Waverley Underpass, are discussed.

"When it comes to dealing with the railways and any large multinational (we should) be there protecting the interest of the taxpayers of the city," Wyatt said.

He had tabled a motion that would disallow the city from inking repayment deals with CN Rail, but it was defeated 12-4.

City negotiations with **CN Rail** are causing concern. METRO FILE

PRIVACY

Apology after fresh theft of documents

The Winnipeg Regional Health Authority is issuing a second apology in as many days after another security breach.

On Jan. 17, a bag belonging to a home-care worker was stolen from her vehicle in the Point Douglas area. The bag contained personal health information for 25 patients.

On Tuesday, the WRHA issued an apology after a bag containing heath information for 67 patients was stolen from a nurse's car. Real Cloutier, the health authority's chief operating officer, doesn't think the thefts are related.

"We apologize to the clients who've had their information stolen. It's unfortunate and we will identify ways we can improve and hopefully reduce that risk." Cloutier noted nurses and home-care workers are supposed to carry this type of information with them at all times. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Good times keep rolling

EVENTS

Ball-hockey tourney redux offers beer and outdoor stage

Braeden Jones
Metro | Winnipeg

The Osborne Village BIZ director Stephanie Meilleur says last year's Osborne Village Winter Classic ball-hockey tournament was so successful, they just had to do it again.

The second instalment of what she hopes to maintain as an annual event takes place this Saturday. It's building on the success of last year with "a large beer garden and all-day (outdoor) entertainment stage."

Meilleur said the event, which she thinks of as a "winter edition of Canada Day," will occupy two parking lots, with the beer garden hosted outside Jekyll and Hyde's Freehouse on Stradbrook Avenue.

Two rinks on the west side of Osborne Street will play host to 25 registered teams, and others still have the chance to register.

The good-old Canadian street-hockey event and live music will run from noon until 6 p.m.

"We invite everyone from the community to come on out and enjoy the beer garden, put in a team (and) play some hockey," Meilleur said.

CAUSE

Revenue from the tournament will help finance "streetscape enhancements" in the village, including new benches, a mini pocket park at the bell tower and 55 new bike racks, which will be installed this summer.

> We invite everyone from the community to come on out and enjoy. Stephanie Meilleur

Jekyll and Hyde's Freehouse owner Brian Allison, right, practices for the coming tournament that he's helping Stephanie Meilleur, left, host this Saturday. BRAEDEN JONES/METRO

SUPPORT

School rallies to support nine-year-old who lost leg

Classmates of a nine-year-old boy in Selkirk, Man., are rallying to help the youngster and his family cope with an infection that cost him a leg.

It started as a simple scrape on the knee for David Stevenson but turned into an infection called saphylococcus aureus.

He was flown to Edmonton for specialized care last fall, but his family was told doctors would have to amputate David's left leg below the knee.

David's parents still have to drive him from Selkirk to Winnipeg for weekly appointments, and the cost of the gas for the 68-kilometre round trip is starting to take a toll on the large family.

So his friends at Robert Smith School decided to stage a bake sale. Staff and parents chipped in another $1,000.

"I can't thank them enough for everything that they're doing," said father Daniel Stevenson. "I'm happy that my son has friends like this."

CTV WINNIPEG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Legal pot could reap $5B a year

TAXES

Economist's estimate based on curtailing illegal sales

Call it Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's secret stash.

A new report from CIBC World Markets says Canada's federal and provincial governments could reap as much as $5 billion annually in tax revenues from the sale of legal marijuana.

CIBC economist Avery Shenfeld crunched the numbers using current estimates of Canadian recreational pot consumption, the revenue experience in U.S. states that have legalized, and other factors — such as prevailing "sin tax" rates on alcohol and tobacco.

"The bottom line is that federal (and) provincial governments might reap as much as $5 billion from legalization, but only if all the underground sales are effectively curtailed," writes Shenfeld.

"That's on the order of 0.25 per cent of GDP, no barnburner."

The Liberal government has promised to legalize, tax and regulate marijuana and has made MP Bill Blair, the former Toronto police chief, the lead on investigating a new regulatory model.

Trudeau maintains that legalized pot will not be a cash cow, and that all revenues will be used to address mental health and addictions issues.

> **It was never about a money-maker, it was always about public health.** Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

"It was never about a money-maker, it was always about public health, public safety," the prime minister said in December during a year-end interview.

The experience of Colorado and Washington states, where pot sales were legalized and taxed, suggests no dramatic increase in marijuana usage but a potential for pot tourism.

"The desirability of increased marijuana tourism inflows will be questioned, no doubt, but they would generate additional fiscal revenues for government on their other tourist spending," Shenfeld writes.

The report uses Colorado sales figures to estimate a Canadian pot market worth about $10 billion annually, then looks at net profit margins from Ontario's government booze monopoly and other associated income and payroll taxes to come up with the revenue total. THE CANADIAN PRESS

PATRICK SIMMS VIA FACEBOOK

Tory selfie

1 The nation's former PM, who's dropped off the political map following his electoral defeat, was spotted in the Calgary airport Wednesday. He took a minute to snap a selfie with a passerby who recognized him. Patrick Simms posted the photo to Facebook, saying he knocked (Harper's) phone out of his hand when going to shake it."

2 Harper is no stranger to selfies. While not as savvy as the current PM, he's still made the rounds on social media. In this shot from Jan. 30, Harper is pictured with Canada's women's water polo team.

KATRINA MONTON VIA TWITTER

WESTJET

Cellist 'outraged' by airline

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

A renowned American cellist says he is "outraged" after hearing that WestJet refused to allow a musician's cello in the cabin during a flight from Vancouver, even though he bought an extra seat for it. Four years ago, Paul Katz says he got the same treatment.

"I get angry," he told Metro. "I just think WestJet is so indefensible, and their attitude is so cavalier. They're just so out of step with the whole airline industry."

Earlier this month, Juilliard School cellist Nathan Chan attempted to bring his cello onto a flight from Vancouver to Toronto but was refused. The 22-year-old bought his ticket through American Airlines, which allows passengers to buy an extra seat for a cello. When he arrived, however, the flight that was operated by Calgary-based WestJet forced him to leave the instrument behind with family and forfeit his $250 US ticket for the extra seat.

Cellist Paul Katz CONTRIBUTED

PRIVACY

Spy agency broke law

Canada's electronic spy agency broke privacy laws by sharing information about Canadians with foreign partners, says a federal watchdog.

The Communications Security Establishment passed along the information — known as metadata — to counterparts in the U.S., Britain, Australia and New Zealand, said Jean-Pierre Plouffe, who keeps an eye on the highly secretive agency.

Metadata is information associated with a communication — such as a phone number or email address — but not the message itself.

The CSE uses highly advanced technology to intercept, sort and analyze foreign communications for information of intelligence interest to the federal government.

In his annual report for 2014-15, completed last year but made public only Thursday, Plouffe said certain CSE metadata activities raised legal questions. In a statement, Plouffe said he has since concluded laws were broken. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Refugees to be accepted remains open question

Thousands of Canadians are trying to raise money to sponsor Syrian refugees but it remains an open question how many privately sponsored refugees Canada will accept. The program aims to bring 25,000 Syrians by the end of next month, with about 10,000 to be privately sponsored. But new data shows that by the middle of last December, the government didn't even have that many applications in hand. THE CANADIAN PRESS

SOCIAL MEDIA

Mumbai police an online hit

Mumbai police are on a roll.

In the month since they debuted on Twitter, the police and its chief of police have been firing up a storm of pun-filled, witty warnings on abiding traffic rules, on women's safety and even on how to be safe online.

And on Wednesday, the police service's new anti-drug campaign went viral in a string of word play.

"If you roll, we will weed you out," read one tweet that was retweeted thousands of times. Then came: "Be a hero without 'heroin.'"

A couple of hours later there was a cheeky question: "Hi! Have you 'meth' us?" with the hashtag #HoshMeinAao, which means "wake up." One tweet had a picture of white powder on the ground with the letters LSD and the message: "Let's Stop Drugs."

Giddy Twitter users in India gave a thumbs-up to the police service — a rarity in that country.

"Mumbai police account is giving Twitter standup comedians a good run for their money," said one user. Another tweeted: "Ok, Mumbai Police just killed it. The rest of you, go home."

#MumbaiPolice trended on Twitter in India all Wednesday.

In a TV interview, police chief Ahmed Javed said the tweets were proof that all cops are "not square and flat-footed."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A witty tweet from Mumbai police. TWITTER.COM

A Health Secretary employee fumigates against mosquito Aedes Aegypti mosquito outside houses of Cali, Colombia, on Thursday. The Zika virus is "spreading explosively" in the Americas and the region may see up to four million cases of the disease strongly suspected of causing birth defects, the World Health Organization announced Thursday. LUIS ROBAYO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Zika virus spreading at 'alarming' rate: WHO

OUTBREAK

Health experts may declare international emergency

Declaring that the Zika virus is "spreading explosively," the World Health Organization announced it will hold an emergency meeting of independent experts Monday to decide if the outbreak should be declared an international health emergency.

At a special meeting Thursday in Geneva, WHO Director-General Dr. Margaret Chan said the virus — which has been linked to birth defects and neurological problems — was becoming much more of a threat. One WHO scientist said the Americas could see up to 4 million cases of Zika in the next year.

Chan said although there was no definitive proof that the Zika virus was responsible for a spike in the number of babies being born with abnormally small heads in Brazil, "the level of alarm is extremely high." She also noted a possible relationship between Zika infections and Guillain-Barre syndrome, which can cause temporary paralysis.

"The possible links, only recently suspected, have rapidly changed the risk profile of Zika from a mild threat to one of alarming proportions. The increased incidence of microcephaly is particularly alarming, as it places a heart-breaking burden on families and communities," Chan said.

The Zika virus was first detected in 1947 and for decades only caused mild disease, but Chan noted that "the situation today is dramatically different." According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, the Zika virus is now in more than 20 countries, mostly in Central and South America.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BLOOD BAN

Canada adopts new donor restrictions in wake of virus

Canadian Blood Services will soon refuse blood donations from those who have travelled to countries where the Zika virus has become widespread.

Chief medical and scientific officer Dr. Dana Devine says the blood collection agency will decide in the next few days which travel destinations would be linked to a temporary ban.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brazil to wage war on insects

Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff has invited all nations in Latin America and the Caribbean to discuss ways to join forces to cope with the rapid spread of the Zika virus and declared war on the mosquito that carries it.

Rousseff said she was proposing to open up to the other nations at a gathering of health ministers of the regional Mercosur trade bloc.

On Twitter, Rousseff said "We must declare war on the Aedes aegypti mosquito" that carries the virus — a war that will focus on eliminating the insect's breeding grounds until a vaccine is developed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INVESTIGATION

Probe faults U.S. government for migrant child abuse

Migrant children in the government's care were placed in U.S. homes and left vulnerable to human trafficking due to sometimes non-existent screening by the Department of Health and Human Services, according to a congressional report released Thursday.

The investigation says the department failed to run background checks on the adults in the sponsors' households, failed to visit sponsors' homes and failed to realize some sponsors were accumulating multiple unrelated children, which can be a sign of human trafficking.

Lawmakers contend the government weakened its child protection policies as it was overwhelmed by tens of thousands of children crossing the border from Central America. A Senate subcommittee held a hearing Thursday to release the report and examine weaknesses in the department's placement of migrant children.

At the hearing, HHS officials declined to fully answer many of the senators' questions, at times saying they did not have the legal authority from Congress to follow up on the children.

The investigation by the panel echoes the findings of an Associated Press investigation that found more than two dozen unaccompanied children were sent to homes across the country where they were sexually assaulted, starved or forced to work for little or no pay.

Sen. Rob Portman, the Republican chairman of the panel, says the HHS placement program for migrant children suffers from "serious, systemic defects."

The congressional investigation and hearing are in response to a case in Portman's home state of Ohio, where six Guatemalan unaccompanied minors were placed with human traffickers, including sponsors and their associates.

Lured to the U.S. with the promise of an education, the teens instead were forced to work up to 12 hours a day on egg farms under threats of death. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EUROPE REFUGEE CRISIS

Sweden may expel up to 80,000 asylum seekers

During an unprecedented wave of migration, Sweden on Thursday put into words an uncomfortable reality for Europe: If the continent isn't going to welcome more than 1 million people a year, it will have to deport large numbers of them. Interior Minister Anders Ygeman said Sweden could send back 60,000-80,000 asylum seekers in the coming years.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DISNEYLAND

Armed suspects detained

A man who tried to bring two handguns into a hotel at Disneyland Paris was detained Thursday along with his female partner, authorities said. No one was hurt in the incident, and the park remained open after the arrests.

The man, 28, was detained at the New York Hotel, part of the Disneyland complex. The man's motives for trying to enter the hotel with arms were unclear.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Barbie's got new body types

TOYS

Kudos from Canadians for curvy, tall and petite dolls

As a black woman raising her eldest daughter through the mid-'80s and '90s, Samantha Kemp-Jackson found little variety among dolls when it came to different shapes, skin tones and abilities — especially with Barbies.

"It was, for the most part, the stereotypical Barbie with the blond hair and the disproportionate body proportions," recalls the mother of four. "It always made me a bit uncomfortable because as a woman and as a parent I thought: 'What is this teaching my daughter?'

"If she doesn't conform to what this Barbie looks like, is that going to result in her having issues about herself and her body and not being beautiful? Because Barbie was touted as the ideal representation of beauty in a doll."

With Mattel's announcement Thursday that its iconic plastic plaything will now include tall, curvy and petite body types, Kemp-Jackson joins other Canadians applauding the move by the toy manufacturer to better reflect diversity among females.

Some of the new Barbies introduced this month. The dolls now come in three new body types: tall, curvy and petite, and in seven skin tones, 22 eye colours. COURTESY MATTEL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The new additions to the Barbie Fashionista doll range include seven skin tones, 22 eye colours and 24 hairstyles.

The shift comes after years of criticism of Barbie for reinforcing unrealistic body proportions and beauty ideals for girls. The new cover of Time magazine, which first reported the changes, touches on the topic with the headline, "Now can we stop talking about my body?"

The doll has changed in some ways already. New skin tones and looks were added last year. And Barbie's foot was movable for the first time, allowing her to kick her heels off and wear flats.

Mattel has been searching for ways to recharge sales of Barbie, which fell 14 per cent in the most recent quarter as 'want lists' from girls increasingly include iPads and other things. The new body types were in the works for the past two years, said Mattel spokeswoman Michelle Chidoni.

Whether kids will pick up the new dolls remains to be seen, though Chidoni said previous changes were "positively received."

Michael Bach, CEO of the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion, said he's excited at the prospect of giving a doll to his 2-1/2-year-old biracial niece who can "see herself in it."

The fact that it's Barbie makes it all the more noteworthy given the doll's longevity and status, he added.

"Barbie is an icon. She's been around for 55 years," he said. "This has incredible impact because it is Barbie.

Akram Sharkawy, brand communications marketing manager at Mattel, said the new dolls will be available at stores in Canada at the end of February. The dolls can be viewed and ordered online at shop.mattel.com.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MCDONALD'S

Breakfast menu growing

Basking in the fanfare over its all-day breakfast menu, McDonald's is pushing its operational limits by testing the addition of another morning favourite to the lineup: the McGriddle.

The world's biggest burger chain plans to start offering an expanded all-day breakfast menu that adds McGriddle and biscuit sandwiches in 72 restaurants in Tulsa, Oklahoma starting Feb. 1. The test comes after customers complained about the absence of the McGriddle when McDonald's launched a limited all-day breakfast menu in October.

McDonald's is riding high from its biggest quarterly U.S. sales jump in nearly four years, boosted by all-day breakfast menu and unseasonably warm weather.

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Talk early to kids about cash, experts say

Experts say when it comes to talking about money with children, the earlier the better.

Gary Rabbior, president and chief executive of the Canadian Foundation for Economic Education, suggests children as young as three or four can start learning some of the basics.

One of the earliest and most important lessons children can learn is that every decision you make with money involves a trade-off.

"Part of the parenting dilemma which starts at a very young age is, how do you tell a kid they can't have everything they want?" Rabbior says.

"When you buy something or make a decision about one thing, you're giving up the opportunity for something else and we really advocate that as one of the most early learning experiences because that concept of trade-offs helps kids understand they can't have everything they want."

Learning to distinguish the difference between needs and wants is a key lesson for children and even parents who may be struggling to stick to a household budget.

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METRO CALL TO ACTION

Rainbow-coloured #PrideTape

Somewhere over the rainbow, there will be progress in hockey. What if an inspiring show of inclusiveness by one NHL team became a national movement towards greater acceptance of LGBTQ people participating in team sports? Let's make it happen.

Sticking it to prejudice
Last week, the Edmonton Oilers rainbow-taped their hockey sticks for their annual skills competition, to show support for LGBTQ youth. The idea came from another Edmontonian — Kris Wells — who's created Pride Tape in an effort to make Canada's beloved sport a safer space for all who love the game.

Wells, a professor at the University of Alberta, notes there are still no out players in the NHL, and that for inclusiveness to sweep through hockey, the message has to come from the top.

"Change is going to take captains, coaches and community members stepping forward," Wells said. "Pride Tape says, without having to say the words, that 'I'm an ally.'"

A movement is made
Pride Tape is an initiative of the Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services at the University of Alberta, which has a Kickstarter campaign underway to make 10,000 rolls of the rainbow-coloured tape. The Oilers Community Foundation made an $8,000 donation to the campaign and players also had it on their sticks Sunday.

Oilers defenceman Andrew Ference and his team showed their support for Pride Tape on Sunday. RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

Hometown pride
A Winnipeg Jets spokesperson said they first learned of the initiative when contacted by Metro, and said it's a step they may consider in the future.

We think all of Canada's pro and amateur hockey teams should get on board with Pride Tape. If you agree, share this story online and post on social media: #PrideTape

What reconciliation looks like in real life

Genna Buck
Metro | Toronto

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission calls on the federal government to close gaps in education, employment and health outcomes between indigenous and non-indigenous Canadians.

I've been thinking about how those gaps can be identified and closed. How to improve, concretely, the lives of indigenous people, with those communities' full participation, and with respect for their heritage, knowledge and right to self-government.

To get an idea of how this can be done, in a way that is guided by scientific evidence, look at Oklahoma.

That U.S. state is home to the Cherokee Nation, which suffers a disproportionately high rate of cancers related to tobacco use. The University of Oklahoma began working with the Cherokee to address this issue, and the National Institute of Health helped out to the tune of $1.5 million.

Cherokee people themselves will be monitoring cancer cases and their outcomes from the nation's in-house health-research office.

The general ideas are to find interventions to reduce cancer and help the office develop research capacity, but nothing is being decided by the university and dictated to the tribe, said Paul Spicer, an anthropologist and the lead researcher on the project. A joint committee — half Cherokee, half from the university — is setting the research agenda.

This is extremely exciting. It's ground-up, but still science-based. I can imagine a similar approach being used to address many issues, from early childhood education to the management of fish stocks.

It doesn't seem that hard. Why aren't we doing it in every indigenous community in Canada? I asked my friend Rebecca Benson, who is Haudenosaunee and a young professional with a deep understanding of the social problems in indigenous communities.

She was positive about research-based problem-solving, but she had a word of caution. We don't have a single indigenous community with anywhere near the population and clout of the Cherokee Nation's 300,000 people. Many, though not all, Canadian reserves are in a chronic state of crisis, she said. An ambitious collaborative science project isn't realistic when hunger is rampant and there's just been a cluster of youth suicides.

It seems to me that there aren't the human resources available, in many cases, to have a collaboration, Oklahoma-style, where the local indigenous people and scientists are on truly equal footing.

And when the majority of the researchers are not part of the community, the thorny issue of consent becomes all that much more important.

That's what Benson emphasized most: the need for indigenous groups to give their consent for research in their communities and on their lands. Not cursory, one-time consent, but continuous consent, with the option to withdraw if they decide the research isn't benefiting them.

There is participatory research going on in indigenous communities in Canada, but as reconciliation efforts begin in earnest and we try to close those gaps, there needs to be more. Because if we base policies on evidence, they have a shot of working.

Genna Buck is a science writer and a section editor at Metro. Follow her on Twitter @genna_buck.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
metroview

Anger alone can't fix what ails La Loche. But it would help.

Not worth the money.

That's how Cindy Blackstock described the Canadian government's attitude toward indigenous children.

As the director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society, she's been at the centre of a nine-year battle that culminated Tuesday with the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal's ruling that the federal government discriminates against indigenous children.

The tribunal found reserves receive 22 per cent to 34 per cent less child welfare funding than everyone else. It slammed the government over the high proportion of indigenous children in foster care (nearly half of those under 14 years old, according to the 2013 National Household Survey).

The ruling addresses a fraction of the scandal that is indigenous people's living conditions. There's a lack of clean water and quality housing; indigenous youth suicide rates are at least five times higher than the national average.

All these issues have surfaced in the media in the wake of the La Loche shooting, prompting concerns over negative, one-sided depictions of remote communities. La Loche's former mayor and current MP Georgina Jolibois said the town's social ills are not to blame for the shooting. "Unfortunately it had to happen here, but it is a Canadian experience," she said.

That may be true, but it's never a bad time to put a spotlight on systemic suffering, especially when it's of such a magnitude that Blackstock can credibly dub it "our Mississippi ... the same racial discrimination that we saw in the United States against African-Americans." In fact, she added, it's worse.

And I'd agree, in one way: While the U.S. has and continues to obsess over its racism, we are not getting nearly angry enough.

Take Flint, Michigan. Americans have been consumed by the story of the majority-black city's lead-poisoned water. No doubt some Hollywood director already smells Oscar bait. Meanwhile, our own unsafe-drinking-water scandal threatens to become an overlooked independent documentary.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is right to travel to La Loche today, because outrage over the deadliest school shooting in our history and its causes could easily fade to a whimper. As he does, Blackstock will be pushing for an estimated $200,000 yearly investment in on-the-ground change for indigenous kids.

It's an old story, this racism, as old as this country. So is America's, where the outrage burns far hotter.

Anger can't solve problems on its own. But nothing will change without it.

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Your essential daily news
MOVIES GOSSIP TELEVISION

The Kung Fu Panda series of films are well-loved by audiences around the world. Inset: Kung Fu Panda directors Jennifer Yuh Nelson and Alessandro Carloni. CONTRIBUTED

Riding the wave of Po-pularity

IN FOCUS

Directors love their star of Kung Fu Panda

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

It's all about Po, don't you know.

When I ask Kung Fu Panda 2 and 3 director Jennifer Yuh Nelson how she feels about being one of the highest grossing female directors of all time, she demurs and gives all the credit to her star.

"I think it is a testament to how much people like Po and like these films. There is such a huge fan base it is really flattering to have been helming something that huge."

Alessandro Carloni, her directing partner on Kung Fu Panda 3, adds, "I think it will be fair to assume this will be the highest grossing movie ever to be directed by a Korean woman and an Italian man."

For the uninitiated, Po is the clumsy giant panda that became an improbable hero, dumpling-eating champion and kung fu master in the first two movies. Voiced by Jack Black, in the new film he is reunited with his biological father Li Shan (Bryan Cranston) who takes his son back to the Panda Village so the youngster can learn about himself, become a Chi master and do battle with Kai, a supernatural bull villain played by Oscar winner J.K. Simmons.

Both directors have great affection for Po and understand why audiences have fallen in love with the character.

"We love how enthusiastic he is, how geeky he is, how much passion he has," says Alessandro. "One thing I have heard someone say is often there are movies where the side cast steals the show because they are the most fun while the central character is the straight guy. But we made a movie around a goofball and everybody else are the straight characters. He is the one who steals the show. When Po is on screen you will love him."

"He has got so much enthusiasm and is basically wishing for something that is bigger than him," says Yuh. "Something he is not able to achieve and yet he perseveres. That's why we root for him because we've been there. Everyone has been there where there is something you wish you could do but don't have the means to do it and yet you keep on going. You have to root for that."

The pair have been with Po for a long time. Yuh was head of story and the action sequence supervisor on Kung Fu Panda before taking over the reins for the second film. Carloni worked on the first film as animation supervisor and story artist on part two.

Their almost 10-year journey with Po has been shared with Jack Black, who was the model for the character.

"He's very unique in that he's so funny but underneath the funny he's got so much heart," says Yuh of Black.

"He's not somebody you laugh at, you laugh with him. You root for him and that is very rare. Usually you have these more jaded guys that are funny and you laugh at them when they fall on their face. But you feel bad for this guy when he falls on his face. I think that just leaks out of his performance."

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Kung Fu Panda 3	★★★★
The Finest Hours	★★
JeruZalem	★★★

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4 SUNDANCE FILMS ON MASS SHOOTINGS AND FIREARMS

Gun violence was on the minds of more than a few filmmakers this year — the ongoing issue was the main subject of four new films at Sundance. "Those films stood out to us because of the way they were made and the power within them," said Trevor Groth, the festival's director of programming. Here's a look at how the three docs and one movie tackle the subject of guns in America. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1 Newton

Director Kim Snyder goes deep into the community of Newtown, Conn., in the aftermath of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shootings where 20 children and six educators were murdered.

In her documentary, Snyder explores the lives of those affected by the tragedy — the parents of children who were killed, parents of children who survived, Sandy Hook teachers, local law enforcement, religious leaders, and even a volunteer EMT.

"I didn't really have any big agenda," Snyder said, other than showing the community truthfully.

"But, as (Sandy Hook parent) David Wheeler says, the people who have the most motivation to allow that intrusion of a camera are people who, as he said, feel compelled to say something or do something that might prevent another town or family from having to go through this."

2 Under the Gun

Katie Couric and director Stephanie Soechtig (Fed Up) returned to Sundance with a sweeping overview of guns in America — melding jaw-dropping stats (like how gun stores outnumber Starbucks and McDonald's combined in the U.S.), historical perspective (how the NRA used to stay out of politics), and emotional accounts from the families of the deceased (including mothers in Chicago and the brother of a girl killed in Aurora). They also speak to a variety of pro-gun advocates, from those who support background checks to those who scoff at the idea.

"Even people who've been immersed in this issue for years told us they learned some things from the film," Couric said. "I was surprised how the NRA's tentacles spread so far and wide and how the organization has its fingerprints on so many things."

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3 Speaking is Difficult

Speaking is Difficult may never be finished. The short documentary is a living film, meaning every time there is another mass shooting, director AJ Schnack and his team will update it. He'd submitted a rough cut of the film to Sundance months ago and had to update it twice since then as new events occurred.

Schnack's film shows the locations of the shootings, as they exist now, overlaid with 911 calls from the event.

"It's becoming almost a ritual where an event happens, there is a level of outrage for a few days and then as it gets further away it recedes and we go through it again," Schnack said. "The events were starting to become like echoes of previous events."

Schnack found the now-normalcy of the settings quite striking.

"A lot of the locations have returned to being the same place — a restaurant, a salon, a school," he said. "People walk past as if nothing has happened."

BORNE OUT OF FRUSTRATION Director AJ Schnack believes the multiple films were borne out of frustration and a feeling of powerlessness.

4 Dark Night

Dark Night is the sole narrative feature in the bunch, and deals with a mass shooting in a Florida suburb. The not-so-oblique title references the Aurora, Colo., massacre of 2012 during a midnight screening of The Dark Knight Rises.

"It starts with the massacre in Aurora," director Tim Sutton said. "There was something that happened to the movie theatre that day. The movie theatre became unsafe. It became corrupted, possibly forever. I felt as a filmmaker a responsibility to try to touch on this theme."

GUNS ARE A BIG ISSUE

"Guns, of course, are a big issue," said Sundance founder Robert Redford. "It's not just going to sit there because the deaths keep coming. It's going to keep rising up and rising up and it's going to get heated and I think there will be some resolve of some kind. I think it's time."

Holliday Grainger, right, plays Miriam in The Finest Hours, a heroic action-thriller based on the extraordinary true story of the most daring rescue in the history of the Coast Guard. HANDOUT

Holliday Grainger sounds like a pro

THE FINEST HOURS

Manchester actor adopts Massachusetts brogue in film

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

Those only familiar with Holliday Grainger from her high profile appearance as the 1930s gangster Bonnie Parker in the much-hyped A&E miniseries Bonnie & Clyde could be forgiven for thinking she was born and raised on American soil. A perfect Texas drawl disguised her natural English accent.

"I'm from Manchester," she said in our recent sit down, "northwest England."

"Home of the Stone Roses," I replied, mentioning the Mancunian hit makers of Love Spreads.

"I'm a bit too young for that but it's a small town so the Stone Roses are never too far away," she replied with a wicked laugh.

This weekend the 27-year-old brings a new accent to the maritime drama The Finest Hours. She plays Massachusetts native Miriam, a bride-to-be anxiously awaiting the return of her Coast Guard fiancé (Chris Pine) from a life or death mission during a brutal New England nor'easter.

"I think I'm quite good at adopting accents," she says. "Once I started the Bonnie and Clyde Texas accent it was very easy. Within a day I was speaking in the accent all the time and I found it quite comfortable."

She was so secure with the twang she'd often keep the accent going even when not on camera. The Finest Hours presented more of a challenge.

"I found this much harder. I actually stayed in my own accent on set for the first week or two because I didn't feel comfortable enough in the accent to stay in it."

To master the 1950s coastal Massachusetts brogue she worked with a dialect coach and tried, unsuccessfully, to get some real life input.

"I went to Chatham (Massachusetts) and spent an afternoon trying to record people but Chatham is now so affluent and touristy. I was going into bars and restaurants and talking to people. 'Where are you from? Oh, you're from New York. You've just moved here. Which pubs have young girls working in them who are from around here?' I'd go and record some of them and they'd sound like they were from bloody Manhattan. Like bloody Valley Girls or something. It was not like the 1950s accent I needed to hear."

Her character's real life daughter Patty ended up helping out, introducing Grainger to a contemporary of Miriam's who "had the right way of talking. The resonance."

The actress nailed the New England burr and then refined it during production.

"In the middle of shooting the producers would say, 'It's too strong, bring it back.' In my mind (I was thinking) has she been at work where she speaks quite well or is she angry? It's fluid. People change their accents all the time."

Ironically, after all that work it's likely Miriam didn't have the usual regional accent.

"In actual fact Miriam's first language wasn't even English," says Grainger "She was brought up speaking Finnish so she didn't actually have the traditional accent but for the purposes of our movie we're not going to play around with that. It's too complicated."

As for Grainger, who will next be seen starring opposite Alicia Vikander and Judi Dench in Tulip Fever, don't expect to hear her Mancunian lilt every time she opens her mouth.

"I change my accent all the time depending on whom I'm talking too," she says. "If anyone had to characterize me they'd be bloody lost."

SPEAKING OF WHICH

It's likely Miriam didn't even have the usual regional accent. "She was brought up speaking Finnish," says Grainger. "So she didn't actually have the traditional accent but for the purposes of our movie we're not going to play around with that. It's too complicated."

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THE TV DINNER JESSICA ALLEN

Director Mike Nichols' sharp wit and protean knowledge made him someone you'd want around your dinner table

Sometimes I imagine that there's an episode of Sex and the City I've never seen and one day I accidentally stumble upon it and oh, sweet joy!

This will never happen. But there are plenty of Mike Nichols films I've yet to experience, which I discovered after a sneak-peek viewing of an upcoming PBS American Masters episode dedicated to the director that premieres Friday.

"After this is over I think we should watch The Fortune," I suggested to Simon while we watched from the couch. "I've never seen it."

"I have," he said, "but I couldn't finish it — and you know how I feel about Warren Beatty."

"Remind me?"

"He's a comic genius. He can do no wrong," he said. "Except here."

"How about Carnal Knowledge then?"

"With Jack Nicholson? Always."

"Do you think Mike Nichols is considered an 'auteur'?" I asked.

"We do. I mean, you've written two columns on his movies [Primary Colors and The Birdcage] in less than a year," Simon said. "But I don't think everyone does. Maybe because we expect a recognizable visual language from auteurs but all of Nichols' works are so unique. The consistency in his films is that there's always a specific intelligence at work, which you come to appreciate when hearing him talk."

Which, once we stopped talking, the documentary allowed. There was plenty on his early life: how Nichols had few friends until he enrolled at the University of Chicago (he met Susan Sontag standing in line, not to mention Elaine May, who directed the American Masters episode); how he dropped out to study with Lee Strasberg; and how he and May became improv sensations with their satirical routines that audiences, including critics, adored.

THE SHOW: American Masters: Mike Nichols

THE MEAL: Smoked oysters and saltine crackers

Then came stage directing, which earned Nichols two Tony Awards by the age of 34. Film followed. His first two, Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf ('67) and The Graduate ('68), earned him best director Academy Award nominations. (The latter is the only film for which he won.)

From all accounts, Nichols' sharp wit and protean knowledge made him someone you'd want around your dinner table, which reminded both me and Simon of my dad. Plus, they both get weepy when talking about Meryl Streep.

And they both love to eat: "Until he had his heart surgery and it changed his appetite, he was such a gourmet and gourmand," Candice Bergen told Vanity Fair in an incredible oral history published last September. "He just loved food and would drive miles and miles for obscure fried-oyster places on [Martha's] Vineyard, and then would drive from there to the best pizza place, and then would go home for lunch."

Coincidentally, we snacked on canned smoked oysters and saltine crackers while we watched May's American Masters tribute to her friend. They're less bon vivant and more proletarian, to be certain — but former Gourmet editor-in-chief Ruth Reichl, who I interviewed about a year after Nichols passed away in 2014 at the age of 83, told me the director "was one of the happiest eaters I ever met."

I think he would've approved.

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social.

MOVIES BRIEF

Dominic West to play seductive cad onstage

Dominic West would like to be the next James Bond. But he's worried you think of him as a cad.

The British star of The Affair and The Wire nurtures a dream of playing 007, but in the meantime he's relishing the chance to be a smooth-talking sexual schemer onstage in Les Liaisons Dangereuses. West concedes with a laugh that Valmont is an "evil b—d"

But while he says he's "longing to play a nice hero," he knows the devil gets all the good lines.

The production at London's Donmar Warehouse was broadcast live in British and U.S. movie theatres Thursday, with repeat screenings around the world over the coming weeks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dominic West. GETTY IMAGES

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Marlon Wayans stars as a Christian Grey-like character in the spoof Fifty Shades of Black. HANDOUT

Wayans' world

INTERVIEW

King of spoofs returns as lead in new comedy he co-wrote

Matt Prigge
Metro | New York

Marlon Wayans jokes about the reason he's always working. "My little one — this little spoiled brat — I take him to Nashville. I ask him where he wants to eat. He says, 'Let's go to Mastro's'," he tells us, referring to the high-end eatery. "If he ever complains, 'Dad, why were you always on the road?' 'Because I had to f—ing pay for Mastro's, you little b—d!'"

Right now, the actor and performer, 43, has Fifty Shades of Black, a send-up of Fifty Shades of Grey. Wayans co-wrote and plays the mysterious Christian Grey analog in the comedy.

I have to confess I don't hate the movie Fifty Shades of Grey.
I don't hate it. I love-hate it. I think you have to love-hate the movie in order to make fun of it. You have to love and respect what's good about it, and you have to hate what's bad about it. You have to find out what's funny about it, and then deliver it. So I didn't hate it. It looked great. I thought some of the flirting was cute. I didn't like the sex scenes. They were pretty boring.

They're very PG-13.
They're PG. It's like a G. I could see Kung Fu Panda doing some of the stuff in that movie. I can see Fiona and Shrek doing something like that. (Laughs) "Come to the red room. I'll get the big whip. I'll use my tail!" Fifty Shades of Green.

How many times did you have to watch the film?
150 times.

I imagine that's like Stockholm Syndrome: eventually you come to love it all.
It becomes your favorite movie. You watch it over and over and over again, until you throw up in your mouth, slightly. When someone mentions the movie you go (gags).

Do you think you're even simply making fun of it?
It's not making fun of it. It's a comedic re-telling. Honestly if you've never seen Fifty Shades of Grey you would still enjoy this movie, because of the characters and the situations. You make these movies like they're original, and you have to make the journey enjoyable whether people have seen them or not. You're doing a comedy. At the end of the day we approached it like a comedy. Not a spoof; a comedy.

CONTROVERSY

Fiennes to play Jackson in TV comedy

Joseph Fiennes will star as Michael Jackson in a one-off TV comedy set to broadcast later this year — a casting decision that has added fuel to a raging debate about opportunities for non-white actors in movies and TV.

The white British star of Shakespeare in Love plays the black King of Pop in Elizabeth, Michael & Marlon, alongside Stockard Channing as Elizabeth Taylor and Brian Cox as Marlon Brando.

The script is based on a — possibly fictitious — road trip the three stars are rumoured to have made in an attempt to leave New York after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Sky Arts, which commissioned the drama, said Wednesday that the show is in post-production. The channel said it was "part of a series of comedies about unlikely stories from arts and cultural history."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Joseph Fiennes to play the late king of pop. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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The vision of Kubrick

Taschen's The Making of Stanley Kubrick's 2001: A Space Odyssey reveals the breadth of Kubrick's artful obsession, announcing its epic intentions even before you read a single word of it. The pages fold out to reveal the full breadth of Kubrick's artful obsession. It's a book of beauty about a film of wonder and fear. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Aries over Clavius: Moon base

Pages 82-83

Artist Roy Carnon's 1965 storyboard pastels of the Aries ferry landing at moon base Clavius look a lot like the corresponding scene from Stanley Kubrick's 2001: A Space Odyssey and also like the 1969 first lunar landing by Apollo 11. The Aries lander in 2001, now an iconic cinema spacecraft, was considerably more curved than the spindly Eagle which actually touched down on the moon.

Concept artworks of Discovery's main control area

Pages 104-105

Concept art of life inside the Jupiter-bound spacecraft Discovery shows how visionary Kubrick and his team were in designing 2001. The computers and other space gear look as futuristic today as they did upon the film's release in 1968, but also entirely practical. Kubrick ordered the actors to bend and crouch like Apollo astronauts, to imitate zero-gravity living in tight quarters.

Test photo of man-ape trio silhouetted

Page 352-353

Long before the dawn of computer-generated images in movies, Kubrick was exploring the use of multiple projectors to achieve the artificial reality of composite photo effects. For 2001, he pioneered a front-projection system used for the Dawn of Man sequence, setting ape-like creatures — actually actors in ape suits — against exotic location footage on a background projection plane, like this test photo in the yellow light of dusk.

Shooting, with the crew, in sterile futuristic interiors

Page 378-379

Nothing is out of place, apart from raised eyebrows, in the scene aboard the space station where tiplipped Dr. Heywood Floyd (William Sylvester), head of the U.S. National Council of Astronautics, is grilled by Russian friends about mysterious rumours concerning the Clavius moon base. As this 1966 production photo shows, the shoot was controlled chaos, with Kubrick in the thick of it, seated top centre in a blue suit.

Heather in costume and with Honeywell 'computer'

Page 478-479

Back-of-seat film viewing is commonplace for today's air travellers, but the stuff of sci-fi in 1968 when 2001 premiered. But Kubrick and his designer once again accurately foresaw the future, with actress Heather Downham, playing a flight attendant aboard the space shuttle Orion, demonstrating how the screen worked. Another actress shows how much the concept of "portable" computers has changed since '68 — you'd need a very large lap to handle this briefcase computer designed for the film by Honeywell.

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metro TRAVEL

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Aloft hotels lets guests order room service through emojis

San Antonio's culinary Pearl

KATE HOBSON/FOR METRO

Gastronomical delights abound in San Antonio, like fresh croissants from Bakery Lorraine; toasted cauliflower with romesco from Supper; and fried snapper throats from Southerleigh.

HEADING SOUTH

Eat your way through this district jewel

Kate Hobson
For Metro Canada

Pearl District is a gem in the otherwise sprawling city of San Antonio, Texas, providing a cosy pocket where history, luxury and inviting fare come together. The once industrial area home to the Pearl Brewery has been restored and redeveloped into a thriving culinary hub now home to many chef-driven restaurants and the Culinary Institute of America. Situated along the northern reach of the San Antonio River, the transformed Pearl District entices both locals and visitors to the area.

Hotel Emma

A warm wood burning outdoor fireplace and friendly staff draw you in and welcome you on arrival at this beautifully restored space that is now Hotel Emma. The design centres around the philosophy of repurposing industrial space into an atmosphere that makes you feel at home while also paying tribute to the history of the location: The Pearl Brewery. This boutique hotel offers some intriguing amenities including a library, rooftop pool, a culinary concierge and an in-room "icebox" filled with farmers market treats and local libations.

Supper

Inspired by the idea of "supper," the unfussy menu is perfect for a gathering of friends for a light, informal evening meal. Vegetables and meat alike are smoked on the hickory grill for added depth of flavour. The salt and vinegar Brussels sprouts are caramelized and tender. The grilled beef 'Santa Maria' with fresh tomato parsley and garlic chimichurri is bright and flavourful. The perfect finish is the ricotta seada with a hint of fennel, pickled blackberries and sprinkled with refreshing bits of celery.

ON THE WEB
For more, information, head to visitsanantonio.com

Southerleigh

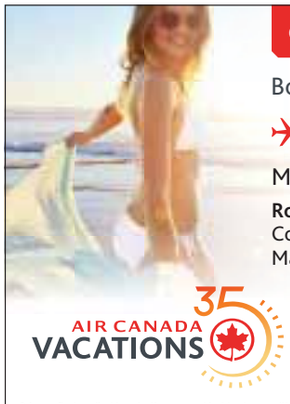
Southerleigh's menu is rich with fresh seafood. The fried snapper throats are a visually impressive dish stacked high on their colourful tray and these incredibly meaty and tender fish throats don't disappoint taste-wise. Their take on devilled eggs, topped with a hunk of bacon and onion marmalade, is sweet, savoury and addictive. Fourteen rotating small-batch craft beers are offered on tap — something to quench everybody's tastes.

Bakery Lorraine

Bright, airy and bustling with people, Bakery Lorraine is a popular brunch and breakfast spot. Sit and enjoy one of their breakfast sandwiches like the croque madame layered with ham, gruyere and a poached egg on grilled sourdough or take some delicious pastries and coffee to go. If you want to experience some nostalgia, try their housemade strawberry poptarts topped with macaroon crumbles.

Nao

Explore the cuisine and culture of Latin America at Nao Gastro Bar and enjoy signature dishes from a dozen different countries. At lunchtime you will experience unique twists on classic dishes that are the creations of the students of the Culinary Institute of America. In the evening professional staff take over and more Latin American cuisine ensues. The menu is frequently updated to reflect seasonally available items so you are sure to have something new, fresh, and exciting.



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Teams are playing it safe with their marquee players

NHL

Caps, Hawks set up stretch run by resting their stars

A one-game, slap-on-the-wrist suspension isn't enough to stop NHL teams from keeping their banged-up players out of all-star weekend.

The league said Thursday that Chicago captain Jonathan Toews won't participate in all-star festivities in Nashville after he left a game this week with an illness. That came one day after the Capitals' Alex Ovechkin pulled out of all-star weekend with a lower-body injury that the team said has been bothering him since November.

Ovechkin and Toews by rule are suspended for the first game after the all-star break, the same punishment the Pittsburgh Penguins accepted last year with Sidney Crosby.

The NHL's rule was first used in 2009 against Detroit Red Wings stars Nicklas Lidstrom and Pavel Datsyuk, and now it has been levied against five of the league's top players. More teams are opting to play it safe.

"We had to make a conscious decision on that," Washington coach Barry Trotz said. "That's the rules. You've seen other teams make that decision. I was out West, and Detroit's made that decision a few times. The ultimate goal for us is to go deeper than we did last year, so sometimes you have to make those decisions. We made it. And we'll just deal with it."

Ovechkin and Toews have each appeared at a handful of all-star games, and the price of missing a Feb. 2 game is insignificant compared with potential long-term ramifications. Blackhawks physician Michael Terry said Toews left Chicago's game Tuesday with an illness and was symptomatic again Thursday, so he believes "rest over the break is most important for him to properly recover and be fully healthy heading into the rest of the regular season."

> **I have to get ready for the rest of the year ... I don't want to miss important things.**
> Alex Ovechkin

The Capitals are atop the NHL standings as the best team in the Eastern Conference, and the defending Stanley Cup-champion Blackhawks are the best in the West at the break.

Jonathan Toews, bottom left, and Alex Ovechkin, top left, will not play in the all-star tournament despite being prominently displayed outside of Nashville's Bridgestone Arena.
MARK HUMPHREY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington will still have three all-stars, as fellow Russian Evgeny Kuznetsov will replace Ovechkin and join centre Nicklas Backstrom and goaltender Braden Holtby in Nashville. The host Predators now have four representatives, since Toews' replacement is winger James Neal. He joins Nashville defencemen Shea Weber and Roman Josi and goalie Pekka Rinne.

New York Islanders centre John Tavares replaces Ovechkin as captain of the Metropolitan Division for the league's new 3-on-3 tournament format. Playing 3-on-3 for 20-minute periods is something Trotz expressed concern over earlier in the week. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL IN BRIEF

Determined Scott to play among best despite league trying to talk him out of it

John Scott has taken a shot at the NHL. Fans voted the 6-foot-8, 260-pound enforcer into the All-Star Game, which is on Sunday.

Scott writes in a story posted Thursday by The Players Tribune that he got a call from the NHL, trying to talk him out of participating in the showcase event.

According to Scott, someone with the NHL asked him: "Do you think this is something your kids would be proud of?"

Scott writes that the moment strengthened his decision to play in a 3-on-3 format with some of the best hockey players in the world. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wideman suspended indefinitely for checking linesman, hearing due

Calgary Flames defenceman Dennis Wideman has been suspended indefinitely pending a hearing for checking linesman Don Henderson on Wednesday. Wideman will have a hearing Tuesday with the NHL's department of hockey operations.

During the second period of the Flames' game against Nashville, Wideman got up after being hit and struck Henderson on the way to the bench. Wideman said he was in pain and was just trying to get off the ice, adding that he couldn't avoid Henderson. Wideman apologized to Henderson after the incident. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Not talking about retirement

NFL

Manning refuses to share plans after football

What's whispered into Bill Belichick's ear stays in Bill Belichick's ear.

Peyton Manning may have told him, "This might be my last rodeo," but he's not telling anyone else anything about his thoughts on retirement.

NFL Network cameras caught an intriguing exchange between Denver's quarterback and New England's coach after Denver's 20-18 win over the Patriots in the AFC championship game on Sunday.

Manning didn't want to talk about the eavesdropped exchange on Thursday, however.

He joked, "I don't know if it's been confirmed or not, you know? What happened to private conversations on the 50-yard line? I guess they just don't exist anymore. So, no confirmation on that whatsoever ... We're on to Carolina."

The Broncos (14-4) face the Panthers (17-1) in Super Bowl 50 on Feb. 7.

Peyton Manning talks to the media on Thursday in Englewood, Colorado.
DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What Manning said to Belichick is apparently more than he's told his own coach regarding his thoughts on retirement as this 18th and very trying season comes to a conclusion.

"He hasn't said anything to me," Gary Kubiak said. "I know he's enjoying the playoffs and enjoying this opportunity with this football team. I can't speak for him. He'll have to answer those questions. But I know it's special to have him back in the huddle leading the way and I'm just very proud of his work getting back to be in this position."

Manning's favourite target, receiver Demaryius Thomas, said Manning hasn't said anything to his teammates, either.

> **"He hasn't said anything, so I really don't know what he's going to do.**
> Demaryius Thomas

"Not at all. We're assuming," Thomas said. "You never know with him. He hasn't said anything, so I really don't know what he's going to do."

Manning, who regained his starting job this month after missing the Broncos' final seven starts while dealing with a torn plantar fascia near his left heel, was so loose Thursday that his news conference at times resembled a stand-up routine at a comedy club.

Asked about the Panthers' propensity for fast starts and the need to keep up with Carolina, Manning said: "As you watch the game unfold, you see the scoreboard and it's 7-0, it's 14-0, it's like the guy singing the national anthem is still on the field, you know, the game hasn't started yet." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CFL IN BRIEF

Bagg re-ups with Riders

The Saskatchewan Roughriders have signed national wide receiver Rob Bagg to a contract extension through the 2018 season.

He will return for his ninth season in Regina after signing with the Roughriders as an undrafted free agent in January, 2008.

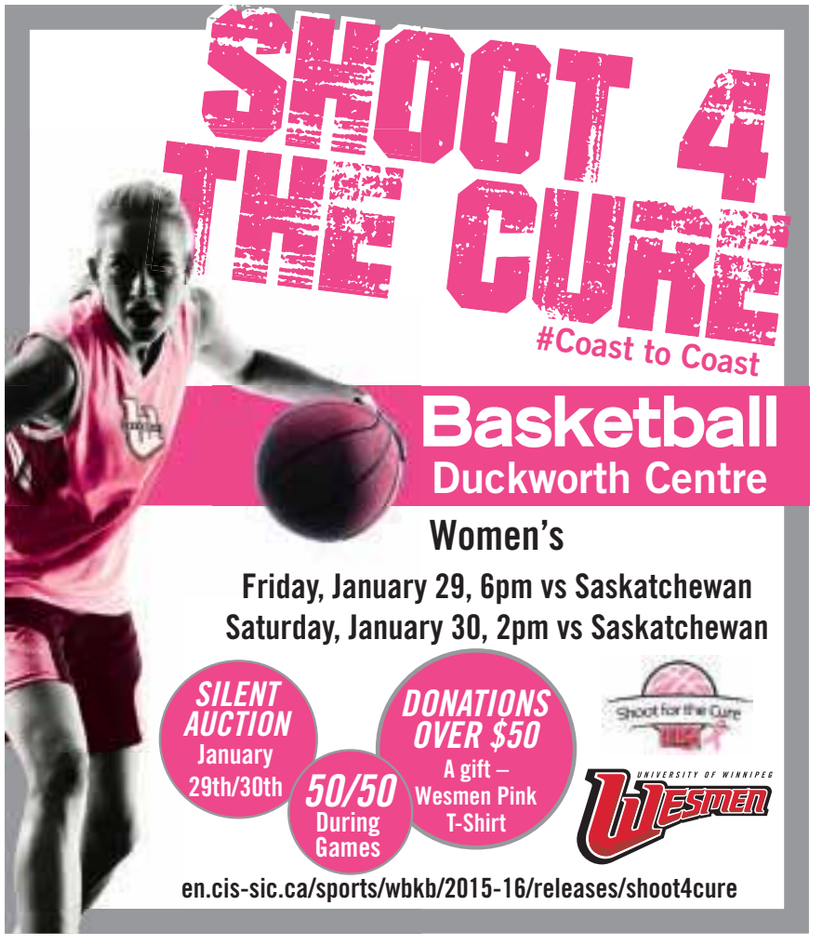
The 30-year-old Kingston, Ont., native has 3,708 yards and 19 touchdowns on 272 catches through 105 career regular-season games.

Bagg started 18 games last season, registering 50 receptions for 540 yards and four touchdowns while adding five carries for 14 yards and three touchdowns. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Eskimos retain pair of national players

The Edmonton Eskimos have signed national defensive end Mathieu Boulay and national fullback Mike Miller to contract extensions.

Both players were eligible to become free agents next week. THE CANADIAN PRESS



AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Serena seems strong as ever after break

When Serena Williams plays as well as she did in the semifinals of the Australian Open, there's little an opponent can do to challenge her. Even one who's soon to be ranked No. 3 in the world, just two places behind her.

"I was just standing there kind of watching her play," the fourth-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska said after her 6-0, 6-4 drubbing by Williams on Thursday. "There was just no mistake. Unbelievable serve. Everything, she was going for it. I couldn't do much. Not at all, actually."

It's been a familiar feeling among the players Williams has brushed aside on the way to the final, her seventh at Melbourne Park. She's been so dominant at the Australian Open this year, in fact, she's reached the final without losing a set — something she's never achieved in 15 previous appearances.

She has dropped just 26 games in six matches, a number she has bettered just four times at the Grand Slams in her career.

Williams seems as surprised as anyone by how well she's playing. She didn't expect to be so sharp after taking a four-month hiatus following last year's U.S. Open — a necessary break, she said, to recharge after coming just two matches shy of a calendar-year Grand Slam.

Serena Willams
GETTY IMAGES

But as she's demonstrated many times in her career, putting the tennis rackets away for a while obviously agrees with her.

"I was extra busy on my new collection that I'm starting," said Williams, a sometimes fashion designer, who is wearing one of her own designs — a neon-yellow crop-top with pleated skirt — on the court in Melbourne. "But I needed it. I needed time off just to, like, take a minute and just chill and re-heal, get ready."

Williams certainly looks refreshed — both physically and mentally. She hurried through the first set against Radwanska in 20 minutes, winning all but seven points and allowing Radwanska just one winner while smacking 18 of her own.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Brown grabs share of lead at Torrey Pines

Scott Brown birdied his last hole for a 30 on the front nine, a 6-under 66 and a share of the lead Thursday in the Farmers Insurance Open in San Diego.

Only it felt much better for Brown. He played on the tough South Course at Torrey Pines, which was 2-1/2 strokes harder than the North Course where Andrew Loupe shot his 66 in the opening round.

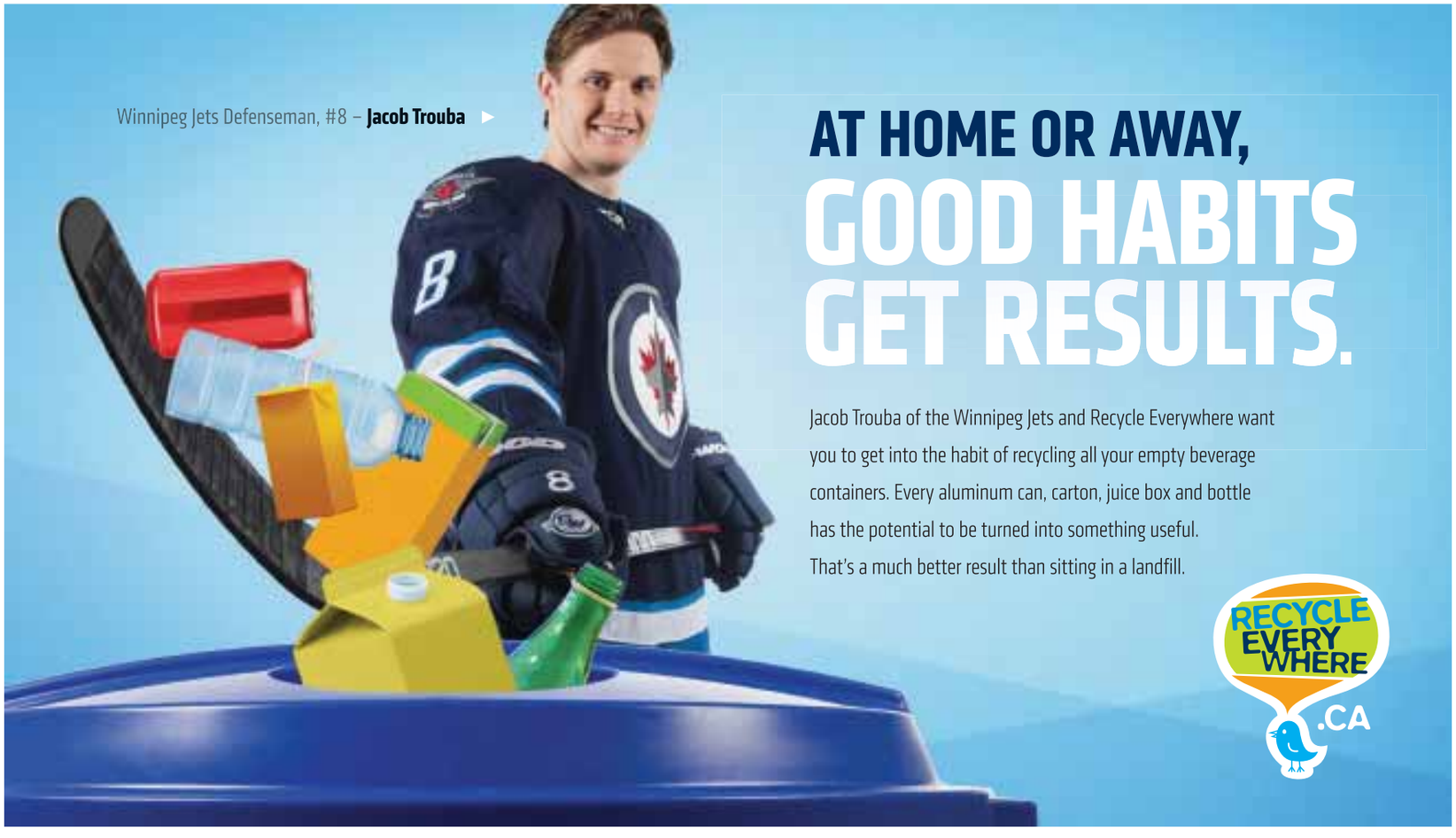
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nova, Yanks come to terms

Pitcher Ivan Nova and the New York Yankees have agreed to a $4.1-million, one-year contract and avoided salary arbitration.

The agreement Thursday was $100,000 under the midpoint between the $4.6 million Nova had asked for in arbitration and the $3.8 million he had been offered. He can make $100,000 in performance bonuses. The 29-year-old right-hander returned to the Yankees on June 24 after Tommy John surgery and went 6-11 with a 5.07 ERA in 17 starts.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS


Winnipeg Jets Defenseman, #8 – Jacob Trouba
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Jacob Trouba of the Winnipeg Jets and Recycle Everywhere want you to get into the habit of recycling all your empty beverage containers. Every aluminum can, carton, juice box and bottle has the potential to be turned into something useful. That's a much better result than sitting in a landfill.
RECYCLE EVERY WHERE .CA

RECIPE Egg Pizza

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

And just when you're ready to tell us there's nothing in your fridge and you have to order in: boom, a breakfast-for-dinner pizza you can whip up in minutes!

Ready in
Prep time: 5 minutes
Total time: 25 minutes
Serves 2

Ingredients
- 2 pitas
- 1 cup passata (or tomato or pizza sauce)
- Salt and pepper
- 1 1/2 to 2 cups mozzarella, grated
- 1/4 cup crisply fried bacon, crumbled
- Few leaves of basil
- 2 eggs

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 450 F.

2. Place the pitas on a baking sheet. Pour tomato sauce on pitas and spread it around. Leave a little edge clear of sauce all the way around.

3. Sprinkle your cheese on each pita and push it slightly out the edges so you make a nest for your egg.

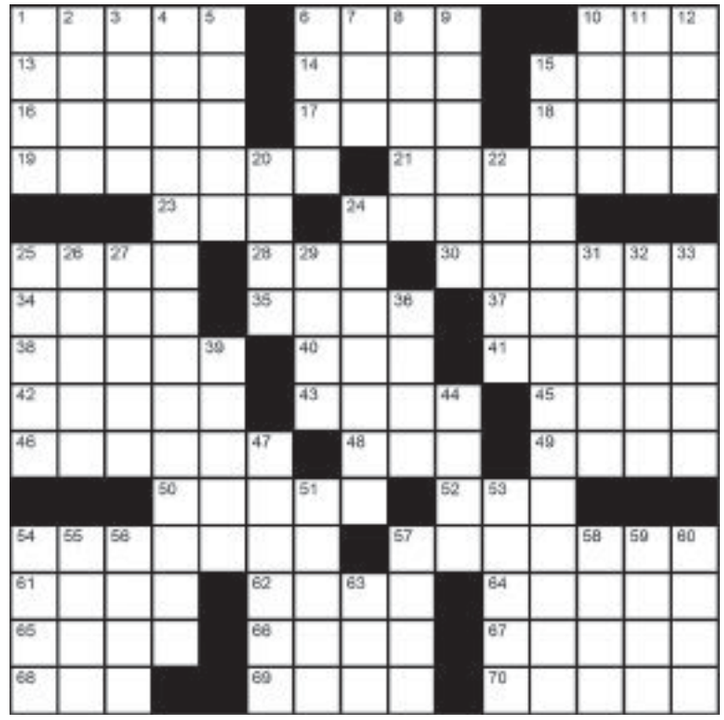
4. Sprinkle basil and the bacon all around the edge of your cheese nest. Gently crack an egg in the middle. Slide the cookie sheet carefully into the oven. Bake for about 15 to 20 minutes, depending on how done you like your eggs.

5. Use a spatula to move your egg pizza to a cutting board where you'll cut each pizza into four. Serve with slices of avocado, sour cream and a bit of salsa. Enjoy!

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. _ Current, Saskatchewan
6. Luke Skywalker mentor
10. Soak through
13. Weakly
14. Authentic
15. 1978 suspenseful movie for Canadian actress Genevieve Bujold, co-starring Michael Douglas
16. "It just doesn't _ _..." (Detective's observation)
17. Oooh's friend
18. Dismounted
19. Trailblazer
21. Here Comes the Bride! Engage, 1800s-style
23. John _ (Steppenwolf's lead singer)
24. Last
25. The North _
28. _ of corn
30. "Runaway Train": 1993 hit for Soul _
34. Secondhand
35. Batch
37. Secret chest
38. This stuff
40. Three Dog Night hit
41. Gourmand
42. Electronics whiz [var. sp.]
43. Neutral tone
45. And others, briefly: 2 wds.
46. The Earth's largest desert
48. Female octopus
49. Singer/guitarist Mr. Feliciano
50. Sailor collar blouse
52. Freezer stuff
54. Artist's 'eggy' painting
57. Traveller's brief layover: 2 wds.
61. Spread-for-bread
62. _ S. Rombauer (Joy of Cooking author)
64. Basketry fibre
65. Varied mixture
66. Achievement
67. Celebrated
68. Actor Mr. Watanabe
69. Forest's one-of-some
70. Skiers are happy when it does this outside

DOWN
1. Switch
2. Sort of streambed
3. _-European (Language family)
4. Bit of "Beauty School Dropout" from Grease: "... missed your midterms and _ _."
5. _ _ personality
6. 2016, for one
7. Mozart opera, L'_ del Cairo
8. Abu _ (United Arab Emirates capital)
9. Goddess of The Parthenon
10. Alone
11. Fail to mention
12. Route
15. Canadian singer playing #24-Down in FOX's "Grease: Live" musical production on January 31st: 3 wds.
20. Peepers
22. Food's flavour
24. As per #4-Down and #15-Down, role in Grease
25. Golf taps
26. "Romeo and Juliet" (1968) actor Milo
27. Bloodsucker
29. Succulent plant
31. Friday game in Canada, _ Max
32. Places for irises
33. Mr. Haggard of country tunes
36. Are, no more
39. Hawk's habitation, variantly
44. Condo purchase
47. Undirected
51. "Hey! I bet you can't..." sayer
53. Hairdos
54. Removed
55. She, in Quebec City
56. Chow _ (Take-out dish)
57. Satisfy
58. Sgt. Snorkel's dog
59. Went by plane
60. Gov. workers
63. Daisy _ (Li'l Abner's beloved)

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Why do you feel that someone is watching you? Is it because you have a guilty conscience? You may have done something wrong and think others can tell just by looking at you. But they can't, so stop worrying!

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Don't make a big deal out of a trivial issue. In the larger scheme of things it's not important. Life is a game and not to be taken too seriously.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You may be tempted to cut corners in order to get yourself an advantage. If you succeed you won't feel good about yourself. And if you don't your rivals will take delight in your embarrassment at being caught.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Do you feel lucky? The planets warn that your feelings may not be the best guide to reality, err on the side of caution today. To put it bluntly: if you gamble you will most likely lose.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Some people enjoy making a drama out of a crisis but you don't have to do likewise. No matter what happens, don't overreact. Stay calm and stay in control of your emotions. Someone needs to keep their head.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
It is never easy for you to hold up your hand and admit that you made a mistake but you must do so today. No one expects you to be perfect, so why do you expect it of yourself?

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Someone is giving you a hard time is because they are under the impression that you can be pushed around. No matter what created that impression you must uncreate it. Give them a taste of their own medicine.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You have a tendency to get emotional over little things and that tendency is now heightened. Try not to overreact — no more than usual anyway!

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You get what you want more often than not but sometimes it pays to let others take the lead. There are a lot of pitfalls on the path you have chosen to take. Let others go first so it's not you who falls down them!

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Might never makes right and you will make it your business to see that the good guys come out on top. Be guided by your principles and never allow yourself to be bought or bullied.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
If each step forward results in two steps back it might be wise to take the hint and stay put. You don't have to be on the go every hour of every day, so slow down and enjoy where you are.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
You may be tempted to take a risk today but that could be dangerous. What you think is your subconscious mind guiding you is in fact nothing more than wishful thinking.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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		7		9		3		6
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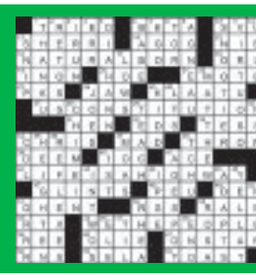
YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

for more fun and games go to metronews.ca/games



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4	1	2	9	7	6	5	3	8
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9	3	8	1	5	4	7	6	2

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